

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing a light measuring kit for measuring one of fluorescence and light emission, originated from a measurement object, through a bottom of the container, the light measuring kit comprising:

a container for accommodating a measurement object together with a liquid;

and

a masking member having:

a light shielding part having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the container, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object; and

an outer frame part for positioning the light shielding part on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object, the outer frame part supporting the light shielding part while one end opening of the outer frame part is covered by the light shielding part;

(2) a second step of placing a measurement object in the container;

(3) a third step of adding into the container the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent;

(4) a fourth step of shielding the background light traveling from the liquid, by arranging the masking member with respect to the container so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the container and the light shielding part, while an inner wall of the container is in contact with an outer wall of the outer frame part; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of said container.

Claim 11 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing a light measuring kit for measuring one of fluorescence and light emission, originated from a measurement object, through a bottom of the container, the light measuring kit comprising:

a container for accommodating a measurement object together with a liquid;  
and

a masking member having:

a light shielding part having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from a liquid toward the bottom of the container, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object; and

an outer frame part for positioning the light shielding part on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object, the outer frame part supporting the light shielding part while one end opening of the outer frame part is covered by the light shielding part;

- (2) a second step of placing the measurement object into the container;
- (3) a third step of arranging the masking member with respect to said container so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the container and the light shielding part, while an inner wall of the container is in contact with an outer wall of the outer frame part;
- (4) a fourth step of adding into the container the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent; and
- (5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of the container, while the masking member shields the background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the container.

Claim 12 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

- (1) a first step of preparing a light measuring kit comprising:
  - a microplate having one or more wells each capable of accommodating a measurement object; and
  - a masking member having:
    - a plurality of light shielding parts respectively prepared corresponding to the wells of the microplate, each of the light shielding parts having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward a bottom of the associated well, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the associated well across the measurement object; and

a supporting structure having a sheet-shaped part covering an upper plane of the microplate, and a plurality of outer frame parts each being prepared corresponding to one of the wells for positioning,

the associated one of the light shielding parts on the opposite side of the bottom of the associated well across the measurement object accommodated in the associated well, each of the outer frame parts supporting the associated one of the light shielding parts while one end opening of the one of the outer frame parts is covered by the associated light shielding part,

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object in one of the wells;

(3) a third step of adding into the well including the measurement object the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent;

(4) a fourth step of shielding the background light traveling from the liquid, by the masking member arranged with respect to the microplate so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the well including the measurement object and the associated light shielding part, while an inner wall of the well including the measurement object is in contact with an outer wall of the associated outer frame part; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of the well including the measurement object.

Claim 13 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing a light measuring kit comprising:

a microplate having one or more wells each capable of accommodating a measurement object; and

a masking member having:

a plurality of light shielding parts respectively prepared corresponding to the wells of the microplate, each of the light shielding parts having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward a bottom of the associated well, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the associated well across the measurement object; and

a supporting structure having a sheet-shaped part covering an upper plane of the microplate, and a plurality of outer frame parts each being prepared corresponding to one of the wells for positioning the associated one of the light shielding parts on the opposite side of the bottom of the associated well across the measurement object, each of the outer frame parts supporting the associated one of the light shielding parts while one end opening of the one of the outer frame parts is covered by the associated light shielding part

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object into one of the wells;

(3) a third step of arranging the masking member with respect to the microplate so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the well including the measurement object and the associated light shielding part, while an inner wall of the well including the measurement object is in contact with an outer wall of the associated outer frame part;

(4) a fourth step of adding into the well including the measurement object the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of the well including the measurement object, while the associated light shielding part shields the background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the well including the measurement object.

Claim 14 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing:

a light measuring container accommodating a measurement object together with a liquid therein and measuring one of fluorescence and light emission, originated from the measurement object, through the bottom thereof; and

a masking member arranged so as to cover an opening of the container, the masking member having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward a bottom of the container, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object,

wherein the inner wall of the container is provided with positioning means for positioning the masking member;

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object in the container;

(3) a third step of adding into the container the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent;

(4) a fourth step of shielding the background light traveling from the liquid, by arranging the masking member with respect to said container so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the container and the masking member, while a bottom surface of the masking member is in contact with an upper surface of the positioning means; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of said container.

Claim 15 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing:

a light measuring container accommodating a measurement object together with a liquid therein and measuring one of fluorescence and light emission, originated from the measurement object, through the bottom thereof; and

a masking member arranged so as to cover an opening of the container, the masking member having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the container. the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the container across the measurement object,

wherein an inner wall of the container is provided with positioning means for positioning the masking member;

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object into the container;

(3) a third step of arranging the masking member with respect to said container so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the container and the masking

member, while a bottom surface of the masking member is in contact with an upper surface of the positioning means;

(4) a fourth step of adding into the container the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of said container, while the masking member shields the background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the container.

Claim 16 (New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing:

a light measuring container comprising a plurality of wells each capable of accommodating a liquid containing a measurement object, and being used for measuring one of fluorescence and light emission. originated from a measurement object accommodated in each of the wells, through each bottom of the wells respectively; and

a plurality of masking members each arranged so as to cover an opening of the associated well, each of the masking members having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the well accommodated with the liquid, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the one of the wells across the measurement object,

wherein an inner wall of one of the wells is provided with positioning means for positioning the associated masking member;

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object in one of the wells;



(3) a third step of adding into the well including the measurement object the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent;

(4) a fourth step of shielding the background light traveling from the liquid, by arranging one of the masking members with respect to the associated well including the measurement object so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the associated well and the one of the masking members, while a bottom surface of the one of the masking members is in contacted with an upper surface of the positioning means of the associated well; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of the well accommodated with the measurement object.

Claim 17(New): A light measuring method, comprising:

(1) a first step of preparing:

a light measuring container comprising a plurality of wells each capable of accommodating a liquid containing a measurement object, and being used for measuring one of fluorescence and light emission, originated from a measurement object accommodated in each of the wells, through each bottom of the wells respectively; and

a plurality of masking members each arranged so as to cover an opening of the associated well, each of the masking members having liquid permeability and also having light shielding effect for shielding a background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the well accommodated with the liquid, the liquid being located on the opposite side of the bottom of the one of the wells across the measurement object,

wherein an inner wall of one of the wells is provided with positioning means for positioning the associated masking member;

(2) a second step of placing the measurement object into one of the wells;

(3) a third step of arranging one of the masking members with respect to the associated well so that the measurement object is sandwiched between the bottom of the associated well and the one of the masking members, while a bottom surface of the one of the masking members is in contact with an upper surface of the positioning means of the associated well;

(4) a fourth step of adding into the well including the measurement object the liquid containing at least one of fluorescent dye, test compound and light emission reagent; and

(5) a fifth step of measuring one of the fluorescence and the light emission through the bottom of the well including the measurement object, while one of the masking members shields the background light traveling from the liquid toward the bottom of the associated well.